

PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



Thursday, March 10, 2022

8:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting

The Parking Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom on the above date with the following members and staff present:

Committee Members Stacey Derrig, Stephanie Hitt, Tyler Jasper, Amy Kahl, Tiffany Perez, Kayla Samnath; Council Liaison Chad Miller, Diamond Parking Manager Anthony Huber, Medford Urban Renewal Agency Director Harry Weiss, Medford Urban Renewal Agency Administrative Support Technician David M. Hernandez.

Committee members Navarro Chandler and Charlotte Cook were absent;

20. Approval or Correction of the Minutes of January 13, 2022

There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

30. Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience

Removal of restrictions for public meetings begins March 12, 2022.

Mr. Weiss states the Parking Committee will hold in-person public meetings for essential topics that may require public input. All intervening meetings will continue to be virtual.

40. New and Continued Committee Business

40.1 Revenue & Expense Update

Mr. Weiss presented a spreadsheet that tracks annual and monthly parking revenues and expenses from Medford's Finance Department. He states that as of February 2022, parking revenue is showing signs of significant recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that devastated parking demand in Downtown Medford. Parking expenses currently are as predicted in the 2021-2023 biennium budget.

40.2 Permit Use and Waiting Lists

Mr. Weiss presented a spreadsheet that shows the availability of sold and available permits along with the number of drivers on a waiting list for various parking spaces in Downtown Medford. He states there are 153 open parking spaces, yet 195 people are waiting to purchase a parking permit in a currently occupied location.

Committee Member Stephanie Hitt stated the high availability of roof parking might be due to substantial criminal activity in that area. Mr. Weiss stated that he is working with Medford Police Department to increase patrolling in the parking garage and in Bear Creek.

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Diamond Parking Manager Huber states at least 1/3 of people on the waitlist have active parking permits elsewhere. He noted he would send Mr. Weiss a list showing the price of each parking permit location. He also noted that on a biweekly basis, Diamond Parking reaches out to people on the waitlist to let them know their number on the list and what other spaces are available.

Mr. Weiss says he will speak to Diamond Parking and the City's website manager to display the waitlist on the Medford Downtown Parking website and update the list on a weekly or biweekly basis.

50. Council Liaison Remarks

Council Liaison Miller has noticed a higher rate of arrests than usual during the evening hours in Downtown Medford. He is hopeful the additional police resources that Police Chief Ivans has deployed Downtown will mitigate the criminal activity in the parking permit locations.

60. Committee Member Remarks

Committee Member Kahl asked if the parking application still collects revenue from people paying for parking on weekends. Mr. Weiss says he will speak to VENTEK to see if they amended the parking application to deny charging people on the weekend.

Committee Member Derrig mentioned Downtown Medford Association would host a public roundtable discussion at Medford Police Station on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. on the 1st floor, Prescott Room.

Mr. Weiss mentioned the only locations that are specified for annual residential permits for on-street parking is currently on Grape Street and Holly Street.

Governor Brown issued an executive order mandating the State explore and implement responses to create Climate Friendly Areas and Equitable Communities. It is a significant policy initiative around planning for climate change and how our communities develop, and ways to address decision making from the lens of equity. Approval of a substantial rule-making process will be in May or June. It aims to revise how to approach transportation planning and the policy objective of reducing automobile dependency and meeting our target goals for reducing greenhouse gases. Parking changes will take effect in March 2023.

Mr. Jasper would like to discuss ideas the Committee would like to include in the State's future policy changes. Mr. Weiss noted he would speak to Council to discover details regarding the State's upcoming policy changes that will dictate how the Committee will pursue implementing future policy changes.

Mr. Jasper would like to schedule a study session once Mr. Weiss discovers the scope of the Committee's involvement in the State's plans and to create a priority list of future decision making.

970. Staff Updates

None.

80. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Board meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

The City Recorder maintains a recording of these proceedings with the agenda, minutes and documentation associated with this meeting.

David Hernandez
MURA Administrative Support Technician